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# Socialist Fulcrum

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FORMERLY FULCRUM

*For A Wageless World Of Mutual Co-Operation And Free Access,  
Based Upon Common Ownership And Democratic Control*



## RACISM

TUSCON, ARIZONA RADIO TALK

## THE RACE QUESTION

Concepts relating to Race have had devastating affects upon mankind, and have resulted in prejudice and intolerance, persecution and death against minorities throughout the world. Racism has been a tool used by the capitalist class to cast the blame for existing social evils against certain sections of the community and by so doing creating a scapegoat, and diverting the attention of the working class away from the real cause of the problems - capitalism. As long as workers do not properly understand how capitalism operates the danger of the persecution of minorities, and the pernicious doctrine of racism, will remain. Once the workers understand the true cause of their problems - we will have socialism, and this is the only complete guarantee that any minority can have against the ever-present threat and horror of the unscientific and inhuman attitudes of the racist.

The very term 'race' is vulnerable to wide interpretation, and becomes questionable, and has been purposely distorted. When an attempt is made to divide the human species into various races difficulties of scientific and accurate classification arise. The prime reason for this has been man's unceasing migrations since his origins, and the consequent interbreeding which has resulted. Race purity, with possible isolated exceptions such as the Pygmies of Central Africa, is non-existent and as a consequence the term 'race' as applied to man loses its significance. In fact, many social scientists would like to abandon

the use of the expression altogether. Whether we like it or not, and the socialist could not care less, we are all now very well mongrelized and we belong under the common banner of homo sapiens - the human race.

Charles Darwin, in his work *The Descent of Man*, doubts whether any trait may be adduced that is distinctive and constant for a certain race, and states that man has been studied more thoroughly than any other organic being, and yet there is the greatest possible diversity amongst capable judges whether he should be classed as a single species or race, or classified in from 2 up to 63 different races, and he quotes the various authorities with their individual preferences.

We are not anthropologists - we are socialists - and when we use the term 'race' we do so with the realization that:

- (1) The only true race as far as man is concerned is the human race - the one to which we belong.
- (2) The term 'race' as applicable to man creates problems inasmuch as it is most difficult to establish clear cut physical distinguishing characteristics that have been inherited, and that are sufficient to classify one group from another.
- (3) It is an obvious error to refer to nationalities and place of birth as a hall-mark of race. The 'British' race, the 'German' race, the 'Japanese' race, etc. are false and inaccurate terms.
- (4) The race concept has been artfully and deceptively used as a divisive method for splitting the working class into opposing

campes, and by so doing creating the compounding existing miseries, and deluding the workers into placing the blame for the problems on certain minorities. And,

(5) As socialists, we assert that the color of a man's skin, the shape of his head, the nature of his hair, and all the multitude of physical qualities that he possesses, have nothing whatsoever to do with basic intelligence and behavior patterns. These are determined by environment - and the environment for each, includes all that which is external to our body and also all that which is internal to our body and race concepts play no part in this process and are irrelevant.

The all important question is - our racial discrimination, and all other allied forms of intolerance and anti-democratic conduct, be eliminated within the framework of capitalism? We say they cannot.

Capitalism is an ever-constant fertile breeding ground for all forms of discrimination, and this takes place continuously and with varying degrees of intensity. Further, the overriding problems of poverty, war, insecurity and unemployment are all embracing as far as the working class are concerned, irrespective of race and the political energies of the working class should be directed solely to the achievement of socialism which will eliminate the capitalist system in its entirety, and with it the basic cause of race intolerance together with all the other major social evils that exist today. In the United States we have the history of the forced importation of black people from Africa who were originally brought over as slaves to live a wretched life primarily in the south. Subsequently when they achieved a higher status, and became wage slaves, they suffered the double indignity of



not only working for wages like other white fellow workers, but they were discriminated against because of the pigmentation of their skin, and because of social ignorance, and because it suited the interests of the ruling class.

Today however the position has changed somewhat, and the capitalist class, who have become more sophisticated in understanding how best to run their system, realize that under modern capitalism more profits can be made from an educated working class, who in order to produce effectively and socially in the factories have to work in comparative harmony and co-operation with each other. Also the black population become customers in the market place and, most important, they have the vote. All these considerations have changed the race climate - but the change has not arisen from altruism and compassion - but because the economic and material conditions have shown the capitalist class that racism can affect profits adversely; that modern capitalism needs an educated working class, and in the advanced industrial countries capitalist democracy is the most practical form of administration. And this means that discrimination against sections of the population because of skin color, etc. can be disruptive to profits, and the realization of surplus value, which is obtained by the exploitation of whites and blacks, through the wages system, by the simple process of paying for just a portion of the values the white and black workers produce which approximates to their cost of subsistence, and retaining the difference. Now if there were no such phenomenon as racial discrimination, the black and white workers would be able to ignore each other's complexions

and suffer the iniquities of war, poverty, insecurity and unemployment and wage slavery together, in blissful misery untainted by racism. But what a poor second best this would be, when socialism as an alternate system can be worked for and obtained.

The hopelessness of looking for solutions under capitalism can further be illustrated by turning to Africa. In South Africa, of course, you have apartheid, and the sickening spectacle of socially ignorant white capitalists and socially ignorant white workers discriminating against human beings with black skins. However the writing is on the wall and there is a large section of white capitalists in South Africa that realize the administration is behind the times, and development is being hampered and strangled, and potential profits jeopardised. Apartheid is a costly system to operate and requires a large bureaucracy of civil servants for its enforcement, and unnecessary duplications of facilities throughout the country catering to whites and blacks on a separate basis.

In the summer of '76 I was in South Africa and was booked to fly British Airways from Durban to Nairobi, Kenya. Imagine my surprise when I went to a South African Airline office to confirm my reservations and found I had been switched to the Israeli Airlines. A moment's reflection was all I needed to evaluate the significance. South Africa and Israel, at present, are doing business together. In fact, as reported in the press Israel supplies and sells arms to South Africa. On the one hand you have a State that practises the most virulent and oppressive racist philosophies in the world today, which cause untold sufferings to

millions who have the misfortune to be born black, doing business and trading with a State whose origins and history are written in the blood of millions of Jews who were killed and persecuted as the result of similar racist attitudes and beliefs. Rather incongruous, and terribly sad, don't you think? But the socialist well knows supposed principles fly out the window under capitalism, when economics, profits, and markets are involved.

Kenya is an African republic state in which the African black population comprises approximately 98%. No racism here - but the poverty is awful. In Nairobi I stayed in a private home that had three male servants, who were paid the equivalent of about \$50.00 a month each. In 1975 there were incidents of political violence and rioting, and demonstrations at Nairobi University. The black government and the black ruling class are not at all benevolent to their black brothers and sisters who are members of the working class.

As already indicated, the wage level is shockingly low and when in 1975 the legal minimum pay for Kenyans was increased, the workers were reminded strikes were still banned. To black workers who think their freedom and well-being would be assured and improved if they lived in a country where the skin pigmentation was only black, we hope this naive approach would be discarded after an examination of the Central African Republic, where, December 4, 1976, the government announced Jean Bedel Bokassa was appointed president for life, and had renamed the country, the Central African Empire, and proclaimed himself Emperor Bokassa I. Anyone meeting the Emperor as recently reported on

government radio, must bow his head from a distance of six paces, say, 'yes, Imperial Majesty' if answering questions in the affirmative and not use a 'brutal no' if responding negatively. Several years ago this 'champion of democracy', as reported in a local paper, led a detachment of soldiers to the central jail and supervised a mass beating, which resulted in 3 deaths and 49 seriously injured. Bokassa said this attack was intended to discourage thievery. This surely would indicate black rulers, black governments, and black capitalists can exploit their fellows with just as much refinement and finesse as their white counterparts.

Moving across to Uganda, the population here is also virtually all African and black and in the mid 60's nearly all African employees earned less than 150 East African shillings a month. The president and dictatorial ruler is General Idi Amin, who previously as an outspoken admirer of Adolf Hitler and had planned to build a monument to him in Uganda's capital. However he has recently changed his position on this, as he found out Hitler discriminated against black people. Hitler's attitude to the Jews, of course, had not concerned him at all. In an article published in the Arizona Star, December 5, 1976, the general was interviewed by telephone, professed a love for Americans, and said he would like to be king of the United States, if the American people wanted him. Despots and Demagogues can be found in all shades - black, white, or yellow, all they need is capitalism, together with a gullible unknowledgeable working class, who have become disillusioned. This is precisely the back ground that brought Hitler to power.

The establishment of the State of Israel had not solved the so-called

Jewish problem. Israel is a designated geographical area where predominately Jewish capitalists exploit predominately Jewish workers, where the customary greeting is 'shalom' - peace - where war and fighting are either taking place, or are always imminent. The Jewish people live in perpetual fear and strife. Rabbi Meir David Kahane, founder of the Jewish Defense League, recently stated, and I quote from a newspaper article - 'It was violence that created Israel and it is violence that keeps alive.' And most sad to relate Jews have also discriminated against Jews, who have dark skins, and are of Oriental origin, by the use of derogatory remarks. This type of ignorance also takes place outside of Israel where Jews use pet Yiddish expressions that are slurs against Christians and black people.

In South and Latin America you have a vast area in which you have a complete mixture of human beings of all various shades and colors, and forced segregation and color discrimination are virtually non-existent, and yet, you have some of the worst poverty in the world combined with military and anti-democratic regimes.

It is futile and a waste of energy to seek a solution to the so-called race question within the framework of capitalism. We say, to our fellow workers of all colors and backgrounds, join with us to create a world in which all the factories, mines, mills, workshops, transportation, and distributive centers will be owned in common and democratically controlled by and in the interests of the whole of society without distinction of race or sex. A society that will allow you to physically take whatever you need, at any time, to satisfy your needs, without the shackles of the wages system, and without the use of money or barter. A society that

will welcome your efforts and contributions which will be given by you according to the best of your abilities. A society without classes, that has united the human race as one, with no national boundaries or barriers, and no regard for skin color, physical characteristics, or birth place. Such a society we refer to as Socialism.

S. Leight

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'We (the negro demonstrators) will not move unless we move with the rest of the working class.' (Philip Randolph, Pres., Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters).

## THE CLC ON RACISM

A pamphlet produced by the Canadian Labor Congress titled: 'Human Rights in Canada: A Focus on Racism,' can be regarded as a useful historical outline of examples and types of racism in this country. Written by Daniel G. Hill, it mentions the genocide of Newfoundland Indians, the Beothuks, by early settlers; the instances of black, (but not white which also existed) until it was abolished in the British Empire in 1833; the anti-Catholicism, anti-Metis, anti-Indian bias of early prairie settlers; the denial of the franchise to natives, East Indians, Japanese and Chinese; the discrimination against blacks, and sexism.

It omitted mention of union opposition to the landing of a shipload of Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany, who finally had to turn back and face the camps and ovens after being refused entry also to Cuba, the U.S. and France.

This time worn hostility was generated by the same logic as that used against immigrating Asians on the West Coast many years before, viz - 'We have too many of our own people unemployed.'

The author recognized that anglophones and francophones, as caucasians, are not separate races but concluded that the hostility between them was and is racist. It conjured a nationalistic fiction that Canadian discrimination is unique, is quiet and unobtrusive.

Included in the pamphlet's categories were 'institutional'

discrimination, that of businesses in hiring and schools with biased history teaching and unsavory treatment of minority students plus government policies, immigration laws against certain races and nationalities. The activities of the Klu Klux Klan in Canada during the 1920's, '30's and '70's is also touched upon.

The work has a foreword by Emmet M. Hall, retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada who is Honorary President of The Canadian Civil Liberties Association. He accurately said:

Historically discrimination in one form or another has degraded humanity since the dawn of civilization.

But instead of describing slavery as the foundation of civilization he lumped slavery in as another form of racism, as something that can inadvertently happen in a milieu of equality. The accumulated evidence indicates that prejudice has co-existed with class division and the CLC pamphlet uses a quote of unnamed source:

Why do people become racists?...

Social psychologists tell us discrimination is the manifestation of one societal group's effort to free itself from a feeling of inadequacy by casting another group in an inferior light.

The writer seems as determined as the CLC in skirting the social cause of racism by not accepting the foregoing indication of it, which more completely, is the fear, insecurity, drudgery and frustration of the working class in general. He admits that racism

'becomes most overt when two factors - economic insecurity and increased visibility of racial minorities coincide.' (When do the workers not suffer economic insecurity?)

Aside from the fleeting courtship with reality, the author submerges beneath the sea of capitalist ideology, that society is free, classless in nationalism. For instance, there are no workers, opposed to capitalists, just Canadians. Capitalist institutions, laws, governments, businesses, are 'our's'.

The fruitless search for a remedy without a cause is made the more ridiculous by the fact of the pamphlet's sponsor being the central organization of all the unionized wage slaves of the country. Unions are combinations to protect the recompense and servile conditions of people who produce surplus values for a dominant class. But all this pamphlet's solutions to bigotry are purported to be in the interest of society, but there is no social interest. Any calming of strife can benefit only the capitalist class generally. And indeed, the minority owners of the means of life do have much to gain from avoiding acts 'tending to raise unrest or disorder among the people' as one Manitoba law worded it. Exploitation is most efficient where the minimum disruption prevails.

The writer points out how employers have missed the productive potential of the female workforce through old fashioned sexism. What a shame, all that lost loot.

The CLC's National Committee on Human Rights voiced racism as a threat to national unity (\$\$\$). It conceded that brotherhood could not be legislated but anyone who violated mythical equality must be punished by law as a moral force. This is reminiscent

of U.S. cold war logic that the Russians must be forced to be peaceful or on if every one of them had to be wiped out.

Labor Committees for human rights were organized across country in the 1940's and '50's and struggled valiantly investigating documenting racist cases, urging more government legislation, then laboring mightily to ensure that the legislation was enforced. All in opposition to the votes they cast in elections, for capitalism with its inevitable racism. Even the method of the carrot, that is, employing members of minorities in visible administrative positions is negative, as practiced in Manitoba. Employment in general, and these jobs in particular reveal the morass of hopelessness that spawns racism.

Of the 7 job categories named in the pamphlet, 5 reflected the class suzerainty nature of the cause of racism, namely, conservation officer, correctional officer (police), drug and alcohol abuse counsellors, social workers and junior auditors.

The mountain's labor brought forth a mere mouse. The whole document avowed nothing more than the goal of containing discrimination and admitting helplessness about prejudice itself. As it said:

"...the future must look like television reruns... the issues are recycled..."

Reference was twice made to the 'political masters' of human rights commissions. With 'Paki' jokes supplementing their Polish and Ukrainian forebears as lubrication with the beer at many working class conclaves, the search should be shifted to the basic relationship of owners and non-owners of the means of living. To end the system of political masters and wage slaves. Racism is again on the increase, and Socialist knowledge, leading to a society

free of worry, stress, insecurity and drudgery, is the only answer to bigotry.

#### SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

**OBJECT** The establishment of a system of society based upon the common ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interest of the whole community.

#### DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

The Socialist Party of Canada holds

1. That Society as at present constituted is based upon the ownership of the means of living (i.e. land, factories, railways, etc.) by the capitalist or master class, and the consequent enslavement of the working class, by whose labour alone wealth is produced.
2. That in society, therefore, there is an antagonism of interests, manifesting itself as a class struggle, between those who possess but do not produce, and those who produce but do not possess.
3. That this antagonism can be abolished only by the emancipation of the working class from the domination of the master class, by the conversion into the common property of society of the means of production and distribution, and their democratic control by the whole people.
4. That as in the order of social evolution the working class is the last class to achieve its freedom, the emancipation of the working class will involve the emancipation of all mankind without distinction of race or sex.
5. That this emancipation must be the work of the working class itself.
6. That as the machinery of government, including the armed forces of the nation, exists only to conserve the monopoly by the capitalist class of the wealth taken from the workers, the working class must organize consciously and politically for the conquest of the powers of government, national and local, in order that this machinery, including these forces, may be converted from an instrument of oppression into the agent of emancipation and the overthrow of privilege, aristocratic and plutocratic.
7. That as all political parties are but the expression of class interests, and as the interest of the working class is diametrically opposed to the interest of all sections of the master class, the party seeking working-class emancipation must be hostile to every other party.
8. That the Socialist Party of Canada therefore, enters the field of political action determined to wage war against all other political parties, whether alleged labour or avowedly capitalist, and call upon members of the working class to renounce under their banner to the end that a speedy termination may be wrought to the system which deprives them of the fruits of their labour, and that poverty may give place to comfort, privilege to equality, and slavery to freedom.

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VICTORIA TIMES  
SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1988

## Real Socialism

One of the bizarre happenings of the (last) May by-election is the defence mounted by the NDP in trying to justify its socialist label in the face of the Socialist Party of Canada candidature. The new common retreat is that the NDP is "democratic socialist."

Historically this "democratic" qualification is a reaction from the Bolshevik dictatorships in the name of "communism" which theoretically is associated with socialism. Subtracting the real



LARRY  
TICKNER:  
"Socialist  
Party of  
Canada is  
democratic.  
But democracy  
requires common  
ownership."

styled frauds of the western and eastern world, socialism/communism can only mean social or common ownership of the means of production and distribution. This kind of ownership would be impossible without democratic control. Neither can democratic control exist without social ownership, as the voters are slowly learning from the merry-go-round of "different" parties that take turns governing exploitation.

In the multi-party states where the acquisitive process is more efficient than it is in the emerging state capitalist area, elections are partly a method of determining how well the apologists, to potency and broken promises are being swallowed by the victims.

Aside from producing and distributing everything for the owning class, the useful class in this society has no concept of conscious social control. Naturally, or they would not still be a subject class. This unawareness permeates the organizational structure of the pro-capitalist parties themselves, considered as they are by the working people. The comment of one disillusioned NDPer recently overheard is no exception. He complained that out of a Victoria constituency membership of about 700, only 70 plus showed up to elect a new executive.

The point is that the word "socialist" in the name of the Socialist Party of Canada automatically means democracy, to the informed. After all, the end determines the means. — J. G. Jenkins  
1000 Lodge Avenue.



## The Quebec Inuit Reject Leadership

# 'MUTINY' ON THE TUNDRA

Mutiny is connected with dictatorship, with rebelling against autocracy, or disobeying orders. It can also be applied to the act of refusing to follow leaders. Hence the Maclean's Magazine title for its account of the Quebec Unuit discovery that the leaders they depended on to represent their interests were not accomplishing the improbable. They were instead, leading. Which means they were 'lining their pockets' and otherwise enhancing personal interests at the expense of those they were supposed to be representing.

The Inuit are Eskimo natives who escaped the initial North American invasion by European capitalism against the Indians farther south, and only a few years ago started to feel the ravages of civilization.

The present 'kerfuffle' began with the handing of the administration of Quebec native affairs from federal jurisdiction to that of 'Independent' Quebec. With Quebec separatism being a class-divided affair, the top dogs in that province were not going to let the phony equalitarianism of language rights interfere with their newfound empire in the North. Badly stummed as the Inuit were from years of frontier exploitation, they 'got shook up' more when told by the freedom lovers down in Montreal that they all had to become Frenchmen now. This edict was accompanied by air-borne policemen to ensure that the democratic decision was enforced.

So, along came Charlie Watt, 3 parts caucasian and 1 part Inuit to

shout 'protest!'. Fears of getting a few paltry \$million for thousands of square miles of territory as was the case with the James Bay Cree, have grown among the Inuit. (The Quebec government even lays claim to the mineral rights of the relatively tiny area relegated as a Cree reserve).

The Northern Quebec Inuit (protest) Association occupies the biggest and fanciest quarters in Fort Chimo, and Maclean's noted the simultaneous Inuit acquisition of a leader and a man with power (meaning political power over those who blindly followed).

'The sharpest reproof is reserved for the Inuit group's purchase of a \$million executive jet, for flights between Fort Chimo and Montreal,' said Maclean's. A hefty expense account bolsters Watt's \$30,000 a year salary (And please pay your dues). Charlie Watt is the president, and his living quarters don't look like the shacks of those he 'represents' at all.

According to Maclean's, Watt's authority is contested by three communities of Inuit who oppose his plans of trading aboriginal rights for a mess of cash.

Meanwhile other Inuits are quickly becoming educated. An Inuit member of the North West Territories legislative assembly has blasted 'Toronto Eskimos' and suggests a monument be built for them with an inscription to read 'I came (north) with nothing, I leave with lots, and I leave nothing worthwhile behind.' (Victoria Times, Feb. 4/78)

'Leadership' is an old, double-edged word to the mentally conditioned of capitalism. In addition to its shepherd-and-sheep meaning, it is distorted to encompass democratic administration, to foster the illusion that governments over people are social institutions.

It thrives in hierarchical systems. The victims of this system, of whatever color or race, will have to delve through the leadership smoke screen before they can escape the social cage of world capitalism.

DAILY COLONIST.

Fri., March 31, 1978

## Unique

At least the Oak Bay by-election was unique in that it fielded a candidate of the Socialist Party of Canada who captured 34 votes. Amazing!

Fifty-four people who believe in production for use instead of profit, a society without classes, and accepted this to be practical, as a case against capitalism. And what a case can be made!

Ever recurring crises, wars, depressions, chronic unemployment, pollution, inflation, etc. An ever increasing multitude of problems which defy solution within the capitalist framework.

What a pity, not one reporter or columnist in Victoria or Vancouver could handle this.

Public reporting? Is there such a thing?

J. F. AHRENS,  
736 Davie St.,  
Vancouver.



## SOAPBOX

Readers turn on the stand.

Gentlemen, What is a socialist? What is a socialist act? Action within hierarchy can only be hierarchical. What is the difference between National Socialism and International Socialism: the International potential to end hierarchy. Since all violence derives from the state, how is a socialist state a solution to violence? The dictatorship of Materialism is the denial or repression of all modes of existence other than the physical: surely this is primary and ultimate violence against the spirit, and therefore the world. Discussion produces discussion; partly produces parliament, the world can only reflect the input of the spirit. If we deny the world its spirit, the world will deny us ours.

John Rothwell

Our previous interpretation of this correspondent's meaning of 'materialism' was the greed for goods and services theory. It may be that his meaning encompasses all things usually coming under the term 'matter' as opposed to the concept known as 'spirit'. Socialists are aware of nothing beyond the observed universe. Spiritual things are really material, including religious concepts of supreme beings and an after life. Appreciation of beauty in nature or being in love is more accurately seen as emotional experience. Mental activity is material (matter is never static). The brain, hormones, nerves, the senses, in inter-relation with aspects of social climate add nature combine to evolve emotions.

Socialists value emotional experiences too and would like to enjoy more: which a classless world would make possible.

In one way, parts of the environment are required so that other parts can be emotionally enjoyed. Example: A sizzling steak or steaming bowl of rice, combined with the brain's storehouse of previous experience can total to a pleasurable emotion, depending on time and place. But food can also sustain the organism so that natural beauty can be enjoyed, all material, natural. Sadly to say, millions of people are 6 feet under, enjoying no beautiful emotions or 'spirit' because they starved to death amidst a technology and arable land and sea area enabling the production of a fabulous diet for 35 billion people.

Since world capitalism is hierarchical, we do not know how the Socialist movement for a free society can operate outside of hierarchy. What is the evidence that opposition to class divided society based upon knowledge of its cause and combined with historico-material conditions enabling its ending, would itself be hierarchical? Or does our correspondent mean that the Socialist Party is hierarchical? If he does mean that, we can agree with his point. But we contend that because the SPC's political activity is based upon class consciousness it is democratic in its actions by necessity. The objective determines the method.

National Socialism was and is used by these organizations and the Trotskyists to describe degrees of, or complete state capitalism in several countries instead of one. (Misconceptions that are joyfully spread by the western capitalist media).

World Socialism will see the dissolution of nations, there being one human community without national barriers.

Violence derives from deprivation, competition of environment of capitalism, official or good violence competition for resources markets and repression of workers at times, through the state). The idea that violence stems from the state parallels an anarchist postulate that capitalism itself evolves from the state instead of vice versa. The state merely monopolizes the violence, as a result of it being an instrument used by the capitalist class to keep itself on top.

A 'Socialist state' is a contradictory as 'national Socialism'. The idea is for the conscious working class majority to gain control of the 'executive committee of the capitalist class' via the ballot, after which they would transfer the means of life society, thereby ending class political power, the state and violence.

### DAILY COLONIST Socialism

In a television interview the Conservative leader claimed that the Oak Bay byelection will be a test between socialism and "free enterprise." He failed to give vice to whom it was "free."

Then Bennett Campbell claimed he was a socialist. Credibility wears a bit thin, for why would a socialist be a member of the NDP — a party whose whole purpose and practice is to run capitalism.

I have always had an almost childlike faith that the lies and distortions of politicians would reveal themselves. Admittedly this prediction takes ages to reach fruition, but I think The Socialist Party of Canada's participation in the Oak Bay election will focus an unmerciful spotlight on: What socialism is and what socialism is not; what is true free enterprise and what is false; who has been telling the truth and who has been telling lies.

LARRY TICKNER,  
Socialist Party of Canada,  
Candidate for Oak Bay.

An organization called the International Communist Current, has criticized the Socialist Party of Canada's British Companion Party, in its English journal - World Revolution, #7

### WHICH IS THE SOCIALIST/COMMUNIST MOVEMENT?

The ICC called the Socialist Party of Great Britain 'parliamentary rotunda,' a sclerotic, sectarian, anti-Marxist, non-revolutionary party with 'reformist, pacifist and gradualist conceptions.' It said the SPGB was hostile to European revolutionaries and revolutionary minorities. The ICC admitted the SPGB was opposed to both World Wars, but claimed this opposition was not revolutionary, that the revolutionary position was that of the Bolsheviks during the first war who called for civil war. It accused the SPGB of seeing the working class 'only as a collection of atomized individuals who cannot understand capitalism.' ICC says it identifies with the ultra-left groups which criticized the degenerating Comintern and the 'counter revolution' in Russia. It appears to be so tiny in membership as to evoke the thought that decimal points will soon have to be used to measure some splinters of the left. It appears also to be ambivalent, criticizing left factions which are basically mirror images of itself.

As a movement which still thinks the revolution was a Socialist/Communist one, which somehow failed, it can be classed with the Trotskyist as a member of 'his majesty's exiled but loyal opposition.' Active in Britain, France, U.S., Canada, Venezuela and Spain, ICC differs from most leftist groups by seeming to show a willingness to compare its ideas to those of the Companion Parties of Socialism, in its journals.

To facilitate a comparison of the ideas of the two movements here, the SPGB can generally be equated with the ideas of the Companion Parties of Socialism (listed elsewhere in this journal).

As Marx and Engels used the terms Communism (common ownership) and Socialism (social ownership) interchangeably, those expressions are to be regarded as synonyms.

The Companion Parties regard the main tenets of Marx and the other Socialist pioneers as being the groundwork of the science of Socialism, that is, history, economics and politics from the materialist viewpoint, (or understanding capitalism).

The purpose will be to determine which movement is in the interests of the world's workers. The first hurdle is easy - both movements are active in more than one country; both claim to be opposed to reformist capitalism and in favor of revolution, but only the Companion Parties define revolution as basic change.

In the present day this means replacing the wages, prices profit system with a frontierless, moneyless, classless earth where all people stand in equal relationship to the means of life, or common ownership and democratic control. 'The Communistic abolition of buying and selling,' and 'an association in which the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all,' as Marx said in the 'Communist Manifesto.'

### CLASS DIVIDED 'COMMUNISM'

It is true that the ICC is in favor of:

...conscious abolition by the working class of capitalist social

relations based on the law of value, such as wage-labor, commodity production, national frontiers, and the construction of a world human community... (ICC basic principles)

This statement can make the ICC appear to be indeed for Socialism as the solution to working class problems. But its vagueness leaves it open to another interpretation. That is, that the ICC favors other capitalist social relations (not based on the law of value, etc.), including the main one of wage-labor and capital, which of course would include the above mentioned capitalist institutions the ICC condemned.

The experience of the Companion Parties has been that where a radical organization sports a few revolutionary concepts in a bag mixed with reformism, the tail does not wag the dog. Sure enough, No. 3 of ICC's principles says that 'once the working class emerges triumphant by destroying the... (state), it will constitute the dictatorship of the proletariat...' Whether the working class (about 90% of the population) dictates to the capitalist class (about 10% of the population) or vice versa as now, the fact of a class divided society remains. Not Socialist society of free and equal citizens. This new Socialist objective plus other evidence shows the ICC has not escaped Lenin's apron strings. Marx never juggled common ownership with the 'dictatorship of the proletariat' on alternate weeks. The dictatorship of the proletariat was a way station on the road to the objective of Socialism/Communism. It was a rare reference to a democratic majority as a way station in the first place. It's actually talking about Lenin's dictatorship by a few Bolsheviks over the masses of proletarians and peasants. If the ICC really aimed for the Marxian ending of classes they would say so, as the Companion Parties do, and not deal in obfuscations.



ICC's goal is no shallower as the relative degree of worsening conditions are for the workers during capitalism's economic and war crises. That's why the Russian revolution (from feudalism to capitalism) and the entire union and reformist agitation of post World War I union is referred to by ICC as 'revolutionary wars.' Aside from the scheme of Marxism, it is quite illogical to think the workers can quickly become revolutionary (understand capitalism) then suddenly lose this awareness to regain it at some future date. According to this reasoning, the next definition of basic change could well be determined by how long one can roll the first letter of 'revolution' before pronouncing the rest of the word.

#### THE RAMPARTS

#### PARLIAMENTARY ROUTE

Getting back to earth, Engels said: But in order that the masses may understand what is to be done, long and persistent work is required... (Introduction to class struggles in France.) No wonder the ICC calls the SPGB 'parliamentary cretins,' (verbal: cretinized mental condition, or idiot). True to its Bolshevik elitist underpinnings, it could care less for majority consciousness to be imposed through an electoral method. Therefore minority violence or 'direct action' during periods of the usually unconscious but extra working class unrest called 'revolutionary situations' which means enough chaos to allow ICC workers' councils to seize power and, in my view, have an effect. Well, I guess we'll have to appoint a Soviet Union the CNR, a workers council to unite the Post Office unions, and another to see that all employees get a wage increase and better pension benefits...

In its Canadian publication, 'International' (No. 18, about the 1985 Winnipeg General Strike), the ICC ruled the absence of a 'vanguard' class party, which with workers' councils, might have seized power. They view that strike for better wages and working conditions as being part of the 'revolutionary' wave that saw Lenin call for state capitalism as the way out for Russia, the following year. Most of the evidence in the article probably knew more about vagrancy than that they did about Socialism. A revolution in thinking must take place. This had not happened in 1985, and has not taken place, yet, thanks in part to Leninist ideologues like ICC. Parliament has never been used by a majority of workers who viewed common ownership as the solution to their problems and wanted it. ICC would probably deny that it is the failure of reforms through parliament that is responsible for its anti-parliamentarianism. It is naive enough to think reforms have brought 'lasting improvements.' Contradictorily it seems aware enough to know that despite the 'lasting improvements', the position of the world's workers is unaltered. Obviously it is disillusioned with past doctored of the system and the Bolshevik replacement of Russian feudalism with state capitalism. But it will do neither the ICC nor the working class as a whole any good for the ICC to conceal the failure of hand-aid in attacks on the parliamentary method for revolution.

ICC attempts a mystical smokescreen when it says: The parliamentary activity of the 'Marxists' of the SPGB fly in the face of all previous and present positions on the subject. It had just finished admitting in the previous paragraph that parliament had been used to gain reforms for the proletariat... and

that these were 'lasting improvements.' There has been no other 'proletarian position' in terms of majority desire than the above pro-capitalist one. ICC quotes the SPGB's Marxist position: Parliament gives legal sanction and protection to capitalist ownership. Once the political power passes into the hands of a conscious working class, capitalism can be abolished and Socialism established immediately.

To protect its capitalist minority consciousness as opposed to democratic majority awareness, Socialism, ICC denies this is a Marxist thesis, by citing of Lenin's old distortion of Marx: 'Civil War in France.' It was a mere a state smother-out effort by repeating him out of context.

The working class cannot simply hold of the ready-made state machinery and wield it for its own purposes. (Our emphasis.) ICC probably hopes to remain will ignore Marx's use of the words 'just' and 'ready-made' as initial indications that is proscribed use of the state, but with democratic alteration, modifying it as a vehicle for the introduction of Socialism/Communism. Or in his words the same work - the state is in evil inherited by the proletariat... whose worst aides the proletariat... will have at its earliest possible moment to liquidate... The 'worst aspects' were its 'bureaucratic and military machine' aspects. (Letter to Kugelmann.) Marx's position of a class conscious majority's end the parliamentary route is not the result of some single, obscure reference. He urges it in many of his writings, including several times in the Communist Manifesto. On the other hand, the idea that Marx recommended the opposite is a massive deception of the Bolsheviks and their splinters.

#### CHANGE MASTERS IN WAR

faithful to its leftist dogma, ICC takes a capitalist view of war. It said: 'In 1914 the SPGB's internationalism extended only to stating that they had no quarrel with the working class of any country,' and that the workers were 'not concerned with to prevent European struggle. It showed its contempt for majority political sophistry by accusing the SPGB criticism of workers who allowed themselves to be led on the World War II slaughter instead of educating themselves to Socialism. It condemned the old revolutionary position was to deliberate one of turning the imperialist war into a civil war, where the brainwashed workers will get themselves signed out in the interests of some capitalist group under a new name. This idea is a wonderland concept which says that British workers who were giving up their lives for their bosses' trade and resource interests, could suddenly turn and a contradiction to their orders and instructions, enter upon a different slaughter by using their inner arms to overthrow them and set up workers' councils or unions. The ICC seems to have a germ of the idea that the civil war in Russia (like all civil war reflects between property or property aspiring groups) finalized as state capitalism. In its 'Basic Principles' it defines all in certain countries as 'a particular tendency towards state capitalism.' If the Eastern Block, Russia, China, Cuba, etc. ever transcend the 'expression' and if the 'tendency' ever arrives, ICC may regard the social system of these countries accurately. The revolution in Russia displaced...

The ICC resigned the SPGB because it 'chose to sit out the war until normalcy returned. Not so. The Socialist Party did all that a revolutionary party could, educate for Socialism which included pointing out the working class position that they were dying for their respective national bosses. And capitalist normalcy did not return, it never left. War is a normal part of the system.

#### MORE CONFUSION

The ICC says:

The SPGB's sectarianism was derived with irresistible logic from the Declaration of Principles adopted at its founding conference: that 'the interest of the working class is diametrically opposed to all sections of the master class the party seeking working class emancipation must be hostile to every other party.'

Aside from not specifying the logic of two or more Socialist parties operating in one country, ICC attempts to make the SPGB appear sectarian by appearing to proclaim, out of the blue, that is the only organization with the working class interest of ending the wage-labor-capital relationship as its goal. It happens that the above quote is part of No. 7 of a total of 8 principles which ICC misrepresents as the whole Declaration. If constructive criticism is the ICC's method, surely it should be honest. The fact that ICC attempted to refutation of the SPGB's Object, which immediately precedes the Principles and avoided discussion of the other 7 sticks out like a sore thumb. Does it fear an expose of itself instead, as a sect divorced from reality?

ICC finally has the nerve or naivete to say the Bolsheviks were 'and remain an inspiration to revolutionary workers the

world over.' What has happened and is happening to 'Communist' state capitalism in various parts of the world, for ICC to say this can be nothing more than religious piety. Sectarianism may not be an adequate description.

In a manner of double speak, ICC merely throws at the SPGB a number of epithets being itself. It claims that capitalism has brought reforms of 'lasting improvements' to the working class, yet calls the SPGB reformist. It describes workers who riot against strikes while oblivious to cause as being 'revolutionary' but alleges the SPGB has a false conception of revolution and 'was the working class as a collection of atomized individuals who cannot understand capitalism.'

After 73 years of the SPGB exposing leftists as being gradualist, reformist, pacifist pro-capitalism, ICC uses these terms to describe the SPGB. Appropriately quoting the French proletarian as saying:

that if the SPGB came to power it would inevitably have to manage a decadent capitalist state in which all the reactionary institutions of capital would be pitted against the working class. Right on if the SPGB was yet another Messiah of the working class, like ICC. But the ICC either fails to comprehend or deliberately tries to confuse its reader followers. The SPGB would not come 'to power.' The working class would, using the SPGB as its political instrument, for the purpose of ending classes and political power as social phenomena. But this is getting back to the class consciousness, the majority working class understanding of world capitalism that ICC refuses to contemplate. And the Socialist world of free access and voluntary work, described by Marx as 'from each according to ability, to each according to need.



Class domination cannot be ended, and replaced by a classless democracy by politically amoral humanism following ambivalent mystiques. This has all happened before. Which could indicate that the Communists Partum have the solution. They are the Socialist Parties.

J

The CPC Candidate in the Oak Bay Provincial Election was asked for the Party position on Women's Rights.

### FEMINISM

Status of Women Action Group  
8950 Uplands Road  
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Friends:

I have received your questionnaire. The problem, for socialists, is that all the questions are concerned with conditions of servitude - that they be at least equal to that of their male counterparts. It is natural enough to be concerned about one's day to day survival within the master servant relationship and all of us must take steps to protect ourselves as much as possible.

But the objective of socialism is not to improve the conditions of servitude but to abolish them. Indeed, for socialists, even if all the reforms, advocated in your questionnaire, were attained capitalism still remains an unsatisfactory social system. Rather than aiming at a situation where women will be on parity with men it is better to aim and a sight higher at a system of social democracy for everyone. Women are not the only group that is discriminated against. Socialism is that higher aim. For in a society where production is geared to satisfy human need, women, as well as everyone else, will be free to organize and

create along lines in which they find the greatest satisfaction. No longer will women be in economic bondage to their male mates nor will the ugly wrangles over property that presently occur when male/female partnerships terminate be possible. In fact when everything becomes free men and women are more likely to drift into healthier alliances than is presently possible.

The shock response to this position is that women cannot wait for socialism. They must have something right now. And of course they must. And socialists welcome a greater

### VICTORIA TIMES

## Socialist Hope

The anonymous writer for *Yours Talk* (Dec. 13) who reported the entry of the Socialist Party of Canada in the Oak Bay provincial election had a point when he said that "hope springs eternal in Socialist breasts," but far from an absolute one.

It is true that generally, and at present, the effective majority supports the social cause of their problems. But this is because the working section of society has never had the option of choosing between the current rat race and the alternative of society owning and controlling its means of living.

The fly in the absolutist ointment of the capitalist ideologists of so-called left and right, (including the unselected ones

of the media) is the contradiction that the brains of the useful majority, now devoted to expanding capital - or producing opulence for a few and administering this expansive system, are incapable of perceiving the upside and changing society to one in which they can serve themselves.

The "ordinary" people will not endure poverty beside riches, shortages with surpluses, war alongside peace, idleness, unemployment with unused materials and machinery, meaningless jobs with increasing struggle for the potential for full lives, and mass starvation alongside food destruction, inflation.

Despite the proximity of their eyes to the ground, the rational facts of the pervasiveness of greed and privilege or their proximity to the oppressed, holding a scale in the observable universe, but this is only apparent in the area of material world evolution. - J. S. Johnson, 1980-1981 Lecture

awareness and socio-political involvement on the part of women. To some extent SWA would do well to address itself to its sisters, in this. For, one of the greatest brakes to this intellectual development of women comes from women themselves.

To understand why the Socialist Party itself cannot become involved in the 'right' are question one must project to the day when a socialist majority is elected to parliament for its purpose of transforming the present society to one of common ownership of the production apparatus motivated to satisfying human need. That is the Socialist Party's sole purpose. When that day arrives the Socialist Party cannot afford to be in the position where it can't say it does not have a clear mandate for this because it has votes on a wide range of reform to capitalism and people reform that rather than socialism. In such an event the Socialist objective would inevitably be made, the Party would have become so diluted by reform that it would forget its main altogether.

It goes without saying that a socialist, in the house, will be voting on a lot of day to day business of capitalism that has nothing to do with socialism.

But because of the Socialist objective a Socialist cannot afford to accept views on such a basis. It is purely academic anyway. It is the party in power that has the power.

It is at any time your group will like to address us what socialist society will mean to women? Socialist Party of Canada will only be happy to provide a speaker, (whether there is a election or not).

Yours for Socialism

Larry Tinker



## PARTY ELECTORAL ACTIVITY

It had been decided to field a Socialist Party of Canada candidate in the B.C. Oak Bay constituency byelection. The election was occasioned by the resignation of Dr. Scott Wallace, who dropped out both as B.C. Conservative Party leader and MIA for that riding.

Larry Tickner is the Party standard bearer and the event has stimulated some extra activity from members and supporters. There has been of course some intrusion into the capitalist media, with reports of the nomination meeting, etc. A reporter for the resident 'conservative' daily devoted one of his radio editorials to the SPC, which amounted to little more than saying

(1) that the Party would complain a lot about not getting its fair share of reporting and

(2) that the majority of people just would not be able to accept the Socialist case, although he admired the sincerity of the Socialists.

When asked, he said he would send a copy of the script, as no Party members had heard the broadcast. But none showed in the mail.

This 'reporter' later resorted to some 'character assassination' of Comrade Tickner in the fifth of a series he did on the candidates and confused the Socialist case as much as possible in his paper. He was excelled only by a weekly which also ran a series of interviews for extensive write-ups in its columns except, once in a while, for updating the B.C. Two radio stations also managed to exclude us from their news-time interviews. One CTV, Victoria, succeeded. The

other, CJOR, Vancouver, tried to exclude us from its all-candidates show but failed, as Com Tickner phoned them from Victoria while the capitalist candidates (including the NDP) were being interviewed at the station.

There were 3 all-candidates meetings on radio talk shows, one of these in Vancouver, 2 on a Cablevision station in Victoria, one of these being a talk show. Our candidate was the sole guest on CHECK TV's 'Capital Comment', also broadcast from Channel 8 in Vancouver, reaching B.C. and the Yukon. There were 3 all-candidates meetings in halls, one in a high school at which CHECK TV had a movie camera man filming the events for that evening's news cast. The other, and the liveliest, at the University of Victoria, had both CHECK TV cameras and a crew probably from Channel 8, Vancouver, the subsequent showings of which we did not see.

The Party put on a propaganda campaign meeting of its own indoors, early in the campaign.

The second Cable program was video taped one day and aired the following evening. A live radio program the same evening overlapped the TV program by about half an hour and this writer had a sound tape recorder catching the radio program upstairs and another recording the TV program downstairs while trying to get Super 8 MM sound movie shots of the television program. Many interesting and amusing things happened, too numerous to mention here.

The Oak Bay constituency was generally covered with distri-

bution of our election brochure and a large part covered by door knocking, mostly by the candidate, but also by other Comrades. 15,000 copies of the election leaflet were printed, few of these being left. About 3,000 were mailed to apartment addresses where canvassers were denied entry.

The predicted large turnout of voters did not take place - only about 59 per cent, and 54 votes were cast for Socialism. We learned a lot, contacted a number of workers who want to keep in touch and learn more about Socialism. For a group of Socialists with our limited resources, that wasn't bad.

### INFORMATION CENTERS

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P.O. Box 4280, Stn. A  
Victoria, B.C. V8L 2K6

Socialist Party of Canada  
P.O. Box 115  
Winnipeg, Man. R3C 3G2

Parti Socialiste du Canada  
C.P. 344, Pointe-aux-Trembles, Quebec

Socialist Party of Canada  
P.O. Box 4111, Stn. A  
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2P3



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, UNPUBLISHED

The writer was thanked for taking the time to let MACLEAN know of his views.

Editor,  
Maclean's,  
Dear Sir,

About the pending Inco layoffs, business column writer Brindley cautions some fact and some fantasy (Maclean's, Nov. 14th). He precisely describes current economic as being 'like death, a distressing subject, one we prefer to avoid.' Why? Because economic, far from being the public interest entity he implies, revolves around the profit interest of a dominant minority in a class divided world.

He accurately reveals cartels as not being absolute monopolies. They must compete for world markets, and like other businesses, regardless of continent, must lay off workers if the commodities they produce cannot be sold at a profit. As he says, the myth that 'we can live forever in the same place doing the same job ... is comforting.'

But when he calls such Keynesian devices 'socialists', he is as irrelevant as the Sioux ghost dancers were. The idea that governments can control supply and demand, create employment or otherwise appear to make the system function for its victims and its beneficiaries, is pay for the crime for those who own it, property or otherwise.

On the other hand, socialism, as the word implies, is divorced from all the economics of capitalism such as wages, profits and profits. As a system, socialism contains ownership, (not state) and

democratic control, by and in the interest of world society. It is a concept which deals with the political cause of current problems, in which the boss vs. worker relationship will be ended, and where each will cooperate voluntarily in production for use, with free access to abundance according to needs.

The present situation, where the creative abilities of the majority are prostituted into just another commodity, at the mercy of blind economic forces, is not the pinnacle of social evolution. It is just a relatively temporary stopping place.

Thanks were profuse from WEEKEND MAGAZINE too, but the letter remained unpublished.

Editor,  
Weekend,  
Dear Sir,

In the arena of fact vs. fancy your Deak Doder scored some points, including the fact that the Soviet Union 'in some ways' resembles the Marxist regime it displaced. Naturally, since like feudalism, Russia's modern state capitalism is a class divided society.

Among his misuses was the fancy that Marx as well as Lenin predicted that the Soviet state would wither away. The nature Marx never predicted any sign withering resulting from minority seizure of power in the name of means of alternate economic was also nothing about Socialism/Communism. Beginning with Lenin, as the father of the Russian capitalist revolution, one can trace a Marxist line was George Washington as a father of the U.S. capitalist

struggle for independence from their British bosses. Marx along for a frontierless, wageless, moneyless world of free access and voluntary cooperation based upon common ownership and democratic control of the means of life.

In this context and in reference to your poll on the similarity between the grite and Tories, is there a possibility of your conducting a poll on how many out of the 28.6 per cent of English Canadians who did not vote in the last federal election abstained because of the similarity of all parties of plural candidates?

And one that made the grade locally, and in some degree across the country.

Inco workers were said to favor nationalization of Inco to save their jobs. Perhaps they should confer with the workers of the state-owned post office who have been struggling for years to save their jobs against the creeping automation. The cheered their union meeting as NDP political mystics via promised agitation for government intervention. I guess they never heard of the Saskatchewan CCF government owned box factory that died back in 1947 because its workers wanted higher wages or less productivity, thereby reducing profits.

These letters suppose how you offer examples of state capitalism operating differently from the private variety, while they let their heads in the sand and let the media declare that the end has come for all. Unemployment has been common, though the



## LETTER FROM ENGLAND

John Gwynne

Just had a letter from Jack Justice of Kingston, Jamaica. He states that the Jamaican economy is still in great trouble and unemployment reaching towards the three hundred thousand mark. Crime is widespread and Kingston 'grown into one gigantic slum'. He also thinks that 'racist tensions are going to gain in strength all over Britain'.

However I rather doubt this from my 'view from the bridge' here. Certainly the younger element of black youth are frustrated in their slum environment, but I know many older men, Nigerians, Indians and Jamaicans who seem anchored peacefully enough to their British wage slavery as bus drivers, conductors, etc. etc. I think they are becoming integrated, but of course they have yet to 'wake up' to class consciousness along with the native 'British wage worker'. Only the other day I was passing down the main street in Withington here on a very cold day in December and came across two striking firemen, stamping their feet, shivering beside their strike collection box stall. I tossed a 10p coin into their box and gave them a 15 minute increase on socialism. They agreed with most of what I said, but rather lamely replied, 'We hope this will be the last time we'll have to strike'. I replied that it certainly would NOT be so long as they supported the wage system and were themselves commodities bargaining over their price (wage) in the labor market.

George Russell,

Manchester

## We are not Communists

In a recent interview on the National Communist TV program, Gordon was asked to clarify a statement made by the Socialist Party of Canada and the (sic) Communist Party of Canada on last night's radio in relation to the "threat of extermination by capitalism".

Gordon's letter was straightforward by comparing it with capitalist questions and then stating in the letter that the term could be dealt with. I would like the opportunity to answer Gordon now. In the as yet unpublished history of the Socialist Party of Canada, the late Joe Mills, one time general secretary of the Socialist Party of Canada, relates how in the late 1940s the Communist Party used to send their agents to beat up speakers of the Socialist Party of Canada. Today the (sic) Communist Party gives support to all manner of nationalist movements—Quebec, Libya, Kirk Ameer, etc. out of Canada, etc. and as evidence of its return to Capitalism. None of which the Socialist Party of Canada has or will give one ounce of support to.

In a New York newsletter, produced by university academics, I discover that the (sic) Communist Party in Italy, as it comes close to power, is telling Italian workers that they must accept lower wages so that Italian capitalism can catch up to the rest of the world. Notwithstanding the absurdity of such a position, it is, in fact, high wages that reduce capitalism to introduce more mechanization and automation. While the terms might vary slightly this is the message delivered by capitalist politicians to workers all over the world.

To paraphrase an old saying, it is as told often enough the liar himself begins to believe it. The scribes, in the past, have attributed the source of international friction to differing social economic systems. To the contrary, the Socialist Party of Canada has plenty of evidence that world tensions arise not from differences in social orders but from their similarities. They are, in fact, all capitalist. A fact that should be amply demonstrated by the friction between Russia and China and the business overtures by both to the United States.

Some people have complained to me of the low intellectual level of the program. I cannot abdicate all responsibility in this but in my own defense I must say how difficult it is when the questioners do not even get their interrogations to the level of TV commercial level apt 10. I have had a higher level of questioners in my highest level audience.

Lois Taylor

Socialist Party of Canada Candidate

degraded in the police state capitalist countries of Russia and its satellites.

Some Sudbury families are reported to be bitter after a lifetime of loyalty and sweat counting no little against company profits, to now be left out in the cold. But nothing more should be expected under a system where 90 per cent of society is exploited for the exclusive interests of the few who monopolize the means of life, and polluting the natural environment in the process.

Goods and facilities are produced primarily for sale-profit, not to satisfy human needs. Notable in this regard is the fact that Canadian government loans to less for improvements to its plants in Guatemala and Indonesia coincided with private charity appeals to feed starving children in those countries.

The chasm between the real and the wish can be bridged, by tearing away the crying towels, draining the hidebound prostituting of capital, and maintaining the alternative of free access, common ownership and democratic control of the means of life, based upon voluntary co-operation, according to ability. Capitalism a defect.

J.G. Jenkins

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## Christianity and Socialism Part 7

### The story of creation

**R**ELIGIOUS MEN who claim that Christianity have a legend about creation so similar to the biblical version that it is obvious that the story has been borrowed from earlier religions.

The essence of these accounts is that the world and everything on it, including the animals and man, were created by a god, out of nothing.

"Let there be light," said God in the beginning, "and there was light." This happened on the first day. But the sun was not made until the fourth day—so where did the light come from on the first day? No theologian has been able to suggest an intelligent answer to this riddle. However, an obvious referent to this is that the word "light" means "understanding." But this presents other difficulties with Gen. 1:16 "And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night."

There are two accounts of creation in the Bible. Genesis Ch. 1 states that God made the animals first, and then man. In Ch. 2, God first made man and then the animals. Both cannot be right; but evolution shows that both are wrong. Inevitably in Ch. 1 the animals were made from the waters, while in Ch. 2 they were formed out of the ground.

Let us look at the story closely.

Ch. 2 ver. 18 "And the Lord God said, It is not good that I should be alone; I will make a help-mate for him; And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air, and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them; and whatever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof." Verse 20 "...but for Adam there was not found a helpmate." (A helpmate is a helpful companion—especially husband or wife Oxford Dictionary).

Adam, feeling himself superior to the animals must have been disappointed with God for creating the gorilla and orang-outang for a sleeping partner for him. Perhaps God took umbrage at Adam for not appreciating his honorable intentions. If Adam was to have dominion over the animals, he needed a presentable human wife—not a female ape or gnat.

It was then that the Lord caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and to took one of his ribs and made it into a woman.

When Adam awoke, he observed Eve. He had never seen a woman before—much less a naked woman, and it doesn't need much imagination to know what happened. He had no work to do, (the devil always finds some work for his hands) and was filled with the desire with which God endowed him.

Ch. 5 ver. 28 God tells Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply. Adam and Eve obliged and did just that, and therein lies the original sin.

Ch. 2 ver. 16 "And the Lord commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,

thou shalt not eat it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

Ch. 3 ver. 1 "Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, yea, both he said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden. And the woman said unto the serpent, Ye said so of the fruit of the trees of the garden. But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, "Ye shall not surely die. For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

In this curious account, Eve apparently was not afraid of the serpent, nor even surprised that a serpent could speak and hold an intelligent conversation with her.

The serpent then tells Eve that she will be as a god knowing good and evil. So it seems from this that the only difference between gods and ordinary people is that gods know good and evil. Perhaps Eve ate the fruit of this tree in order to gain knowledge, a perfectly commendable intention. But why should God by creating the serpent have made a successful one?

Adam and Eve did eat of the fruit, and they did not die from it. The serpent (devil) was right and God was wrong. Jehovah knew beforehand that he was going to be wrong and defeated by the devil, so perhaps he deliberately resorted to a lie—a very bad way for a god to start his career.

Ch. 3 ver. 22 "And the Lord God said, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil." What did he include in this "us"? God the son was not yet born and the other fellow—God the Holy Ghost, at this stage had not made his formal appearance, and was probably still slumbering in eternal idleness. Then was only the devil, so God must have included him in his partnership of the universe—no wonder the devil knew that Adam and Eve would not die.

Why did God give Adam insufficient will-power to resist Eve's temptation? Of course, God knew because he knows everything that Adam and Eve were going to let him down and that he would have to down the whole world and start again with Noah and his family. It poses the question why he did not communicate with "Moses & Co" in the first place, and leave Adam and Eve blundering in their original state? Why did not God plant his mystery tree on the other side of the garden, for there was plenty of room for it elsewhere? By creating the serpent it would appear that God deliberately conspired to bring about the downfall of Adam and Eve and ruin their matrimonial happiness. "God made man such as he is and damned him for being so." (Shelley)

"If God made man" wrote Robert Blair, "then God is responsible for man's acts and thoughts, and

damned man cannot sin against God. And if a man could not sin against God, but could only act as God ordained that he should act, then it is against reason to suppose that God could be angry with man, or could punish man, or see any offense which to punish."

"Man could not have been created perfect, and then afterward how could a perfect man fall? How could an all-powerful God make an imperfect man?"

"It was not necessary for God to send his son to die upon a cross because if that was to atone for man's sin it was needless, as God could have forgiven man without sacrificing his son to suffering."

"Man having only the powers God gave him, could not sin against God, any more than a steam engine can sin against the engineer who designed and built it."

It is quite useless for believers to say that man has a free will, because God knows everything in advance and therefore knew that man must act in a certain way and men did. All his acts were controlled by the God who created him and pulled the puppet strings.

The casual biblical critic often says, "Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel, so when Eve died, how was the world repopulated?" God with infinite foresight had this well in mind (Genesis 3:15). "And all the days of Adam, after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years; and he begat sons and daughters. And all the days of Adam were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died."

We might pause and consider the claim that Adam lived 930 years. It may not have been 930 years, but seemed so to him. On the other hand, Adam had no wife certificate, nor was any midwife or doctor present at his somewhat unusual birth, so there is no evidence for the historic occasion.

God seems to have overlooked that he made it impossible for the world population to continue without the necessity of committing the crime of incest. He could have created another family somewhere else, but in his infinite wisdom slipped up badly in this respect.

It is however, very interesting to note that Adam was 120 years of age when he begat Seth, so he was very virile in his old age despite his dramatic life. How old he was when he begat his daughters we have no idea. All the Bible tells us that it was after his 120 years. Perhaps it was even more remarkable for Eve, bearing in mind that all this took place in an Eastern country where women decline rapidly. Eve, was, of course, the same age as Adam, or a day or two younger if you accept the second account of creation, so child bearing in 120 years of age should qualify her for a place in the "Guinness Book of Records."

Snellie wrote in Queen Mab:-

From an eternity of idleness  
I, God awake, in seven days toil made earth  
From nothing, rested, and created man,  
I placed him in a Paradise, and there  
Planted the tree of evil, so that he  
Might eat and perish, and My soul procure  
Whereunto to set as malice, and to turn  
A heartless conqueror of the earth,  
All misery to my fame."

God moves in a mysterious way his blunders to wisdom.

## Noah and the ark

IN GENESIS Ch. 9 we are told "Man began to multiply, and God saw the wickedness of man-kind." This is a little strange when you consider that God's instructions to Adam and Eve seem to be stretched and multiply. Nevertheless, this was apparently the reason why God decided to flood the world. God must have been very annoyed to have above such drastic measures.

In Ch. 4:12 we read that the earth was filled with violence. If catastrophic measures were made to large numbers, surely this is to be expected. Anyway who created all those vicious "monsters?"

Noah was 500 years of age when he begat his three sons (Gen. 5:32) and like Adam must have been an extraordinary virile man. After 480 years to recover from this event, and when Noah was 600 years old, God selected him for the enormous task of making the ark (Gen. 7:1). At least he was a man of maturity, but perhaps a little too old for such a strenuous job, not only the building of the ark, but in stocking it with animals and food.

God gave Noah the measurements for the ark. It was approximately 600 ft. long, 100 ft. wide and 60 ft. high. Just think of the immense amount of work for Noah and his family. It would need a considerable firm of shipbuilders with modern equipment including cranes to make it today. Where Noah bought his ship-building technique, the Bible does not mention.

Noah was first told to put two of each animal into the ark (Gen. 4:15) and afterwards to put seven of each into the ark (Ch. 7 ver. 2). God was not very precise with his instructions on this important matter. Of course, he might have had second thoughts and felt that seven of each was necessary, and that two would not be sufficient for breeding purposes in some instances, for animals are occasionally sterile. Seven, moreover, is not a holy number. However, the animals went in two by two and there is no further mention of seven.

The ark story raises a lot of questions which have never been answered. How the animals were collected together, or found their way into the ark, the Bible does not say. One would have thought that Noah would have had difficulties in marshalling them together. Noah must have had a plan for organizing.

A pair of microscopic insects from Australia would have time to crawl along the ocean beds for more than 10,000 miles, and as some species can travel only at the speed of a mile a month, it would have taken them nearly 1,000 years to make the journey, always providing that they could escape themselves to the prodigious under water crowd, and of course, find their way.

It is estimated that there are some 2,000,000 species of insects and nearly 1,500,000 other animals including birds, mammals, reptiles, etc. incidentally whales are not fish, but mammals, and would have to be included. The Bible does not mention how Noah lifted up a cruise of 1,500 tons whales and packed them



into the ark. But let's not make more difficulties for Noah had his hands full.

The feeding of this gigantic collection of animals must have been immense. Even if the animals co-operated by walking into the ark, their food had to be carried in by the Noah family. Many species of birds can eat their own weight in insects in a day, and there were about half a million of them for whom Noah had to cater. Of course, the ark had to carry millions of insects as food for the birds. These insects also had to be fed and could ravage enormous quantities of food. There is no report in the Bible that Noah had been a store keeper or had any experience in running a zoological garden, and that seems to have precluded giving him any instruction about animal feeding. Noah must have been a very able man — a natural and zoological genius. Not a single animal was reported ill, much less of dying during this adventure!

Who went to the arctic to collect the polar bears? (Even if they came voluntarily, their food in the shape of hundreds of seals surely did not make the journey to be eaten.) Then again there was the seal's food to consider while they were in the ark's larder. Who went to the antarctic to fetch the penguins, walruses, sea elephants — and their food in the form of thousands of fish found only in the antarctic?

There is no mention that the animals were put in small cages, if they were not and had adequate room to exercise (or fly) the ark would have been of astronomical size.

How all these thousands of animals were packed into the ark is difficult to imagine. Hundreds of thousands of tons of food were needed for them, far more than any modern liner or cargo ship could carry. This ark full of animals was floating about for ten months (Gen. 8:5). Thousands of tons of fish were needed for the birds. There is no mention that Noah went fishing, this was impossible anyway, for the ark was sealed up. Thousands of tons of meat for the carnivores were needed. How this was preserved without cold-storage rooms we are not told. Thousands of tons of cereals for elephants, rhinoceroses, deer, antilopes, horses, donkeys, zebras, etc., were also necessary. The lions might have been able to lie down with the lambs, but only when the lambs were inside them. Moreover a couple of lions could easily consume 400 lambs (or antilopes) during this voyage, not to mention other big cats, tigers, leopards, etc. How the Noah family controlled these ferocious beasts none but the credulous can take seriously.

The enormous quantity of excreta deposited in the ark by this gigantic menagerie must have been a little unpleasant for Noah and his family, as any visitor to a zoo will appreciate. The dung was not even shovelled over-board. This huge floating zoo had only one window about two feet square, and Noah was instructed to close the door. In those days the standard of ventilation was very low, so the stench must have been appalling; and the ark was packed full of animal excreta long before the ten months had passed. The Bible does not mention this, nor that the health of Noah and his family was affected in any way.

Then the rain started. It rained for forty days and forty nights. Why 40 days? Because 40 was a holy number, did not Christ fast for forty days?

Where did all the rain come from, for it covered the earth including the mountains? Mt. Everest is about five miles high, which means an average of 900 ft. of rain a day; rather high by our present standards. London has an average of 2 ft. per year. The origin of all this water is a problem sufficient to baffle the meteorologists of all time. When all the rain water disappeared to it is equally perplexing.

## The adventures of David

**K**ING DAVID was in direct descent between Abraham and Jesus and therefore a very important personage in biblical history. It is not surprising that the Bible tells us much about him.

David lived by robbery and massacre. An account of his adventures with the Amalekites occurs in 1 Sam. Ch. 27. Other monarchs have lived this way, but David was no ordinary king, but one that was "after God's own heart."

David killed two-thirds of the Moabite prisoners and maimed the captured horses. The account of this repulsive act is to be found in 2 Sam. Ch. 8.

David used to amuse himself in his many lull intervals, (when he was not murdering and plundering people), by climbing on the roof of Uriah's house to watch Mrs. Uriah bathing. Uriah was one of his soldiers and David sent him to fight in the grimmest of battles so that he might get killed, while he, the great King David, carried on his interesting occupation and committed adultery with Uriah's wife (2 Sam. Ch. 11). Scarcely a commendable act for a man "after God's own heart."

David having killed 200 Philistines (1 Sam. 18:27) cut off their foreskins and gave them to Saul in exchange for his daughter Michal as a wife. What filthy minds these men of God must have had. As David was one of God's favourites, God forgave him all these crimes; but poor old Adam who was not a king and who killed nobody, was punished for ever, and with his all of us. God's justice appears a little unfair.

It is worthy to note that God did not pronounce David as a man "after his own heart" before he committed the above crimes, but afterwards, for the statement occurs in the New Testament (Acts 13:36, 37). What sort of an all loving heavenly father is God?

Next issue: **IT'S US**

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